

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SALT T 05467 121102Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

ACDE-00 /026 W
----- 106130

O 121046Z JUL 76

FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3129

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 5467

EXDIS/SALT

DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: MIRV COUNTING (SALT TWO-1057)

REF: STATE 164156

1. THE SOVIETS HAVE IN NO WAY RESPONDED TO THE CHALLENGE ON DEROZHNYA AND PERVOMAYSK WHICH WE PRESENTED TO THEM ON MARCY 23. I BELIEVE NOW TO SEEK FURTHER TO PURSUE THIS ISSUE ALONG LINES OF REFTEL WOULD INEVITABLY BE INTERPRETED BY THE SOVIETS THAT WE ARE CONTEMPLATING A CHANGE IN OUR MIRV POSITION FROM COUNTING AS MIRVED ALL LAUNCHERS OF A "TYPE" TO COUNTING AS MIRVED ONLY THOSE LAUNCHERS CONTAINING A MISSILE FLIGHT TESTED WITH MIRVS. THUS I BELIEVE THE APPROACH OUTLINED IN REFTEL COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE; AND, IN ANY EVENT, I DO NOT THINK THAT IT WILL PRODUCE ANY USEFUL INFORMATION

2. THE SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO DESIGNATE MISSILES WITH MIRVS TO SATISFY OUR CONCERN OVER "ONCE TESTED" CRITERION. THUS, I BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE TO CONTINUE TO ENGAGE THE SOVIETS IN A DIALOGUE ON ALL ASPECTS OF MIRVED VERIFICATION ALONG OUR PRESENT LINES AND PARTICULARLY PURSUE WITH THEM THEIR "DESIGNATION"

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PROPOSAL. IF THEY SURFACE THE PROBLEM OF COUNTING CERTAIN

LAUNCHERS THAT CONTAIN A BOOSTER WHICH HAS NOT BEEN FLIGHT
TESTED WITH MIRVS THEN WE MIGHT MOVE THE DIALOGUE ALONG THE
LINES SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. WE WILL BEALERT FOR SUCH AN
OPPORTUNITY. JOHNSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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